



**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HOMES  
FACT SHEET**

- \* Christopher Columbus is one of New Jersey's largest public housing high-rise complexes
- \* **Location:** Bounded by Seventh Avenue to the north, Summer Avenue and High Street to the east and Sheffield Drive to the west and south
- \* 14.60 acres, 2.70 of which are utilized for buildings
- \* **Density Design:** 106.5 families per acre
- \* **Number of Units:** 1556
- \* **Development Cost** was approximately \$55 million in 1955 dollars
- \* **Original Cost of Construction** -- Approximately \$21 million
- \* **Development Type:** Family
- \* **Configuration:** Eight 13-story high-rise buildings and administration building
- \* **Apartment Configuration:** There are 96 one-bedroom apartments; 960 two-bedroom apartments; 384 three-bedroom apartments; 96 four-bedroom apartments; and 20 five-bedroom apartments.
- \* Originally designed by Newark architect William Lehman, Jr.
- \* **Initial Date of Occupancy** -- October 1, 1955
- \* The NHA began to close buildings at Columbus Homes in 1972 (Buildings 4 and 5), and consolidating tenants into the remaining buildings. Buildings 6 and 7 were closed in 1982 and Building 8 in 1984.
- \* Buildings 1, 2 and 3 were closed in 1990.
- \* **Final Date of Occupancy** -- October 3, 1990
- \* During the 1970s, \$11.88 million in modernization funds were spent on the buildings that remained open.
- \* **Demolition firm:** Mercer Wrecking Recycling Corp., Trenton, NJ, demolished four buildings at Christopher Columbus Homes. Explosive demolition by Engineered Demolition of Minneapolis, MN, and Professional Planning and Engineering Corp. of Morris Plains, NJ, provided the engineering consultation.
- \* **Contract amount:** \$1.4 million